The
REPORTER
For Conscience' Sake

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Hershey Requests Money to "Hire" Work Refusers

Senator Saltonstall of Massachusetts has submitted an amendment to the Senate Appropriations bill for Independent Offices (H. R. 5240) including Selective Service, which would provide for $10,000 to pay COs. This money would be for the purpose of paying COs ordered to perform civilian work for the federal government. The amendment also would provide that registrants ordered to such work will not be considered federal employees and would not be under Civil Service or other applicable laws governing federal employees.

The reason for this amendment, according to testimony by Gen. Hershey before the subcommittee, is to place a CO who refuses to cooperate with the civilian work program in a position where he can be prosecuted. COs who refuse to accept a work assignment or who refuse to work once they are at the place of assignment would be ordered to the special federal work, and then prosecuted or paid, according to their own actions.

Because employers do not have to hire COs for work in lieu of induction, this money would allow Selective Service to order a CO into work where the government would have witnesses as to the actions of the CO.

NOTE: As this goes to press, the Senate just approved the Appropriations bill for Independent Offices, including the Saltonstall Amendment. Since the House of Representatives' version and the Senate's version are different, a joint committee will have to work out the conflicts before further action can be taken.

I-W and CPS Statistics Compared

The NSBRO has often been asked if there is a greater or lesser number of conscientious objectors now than during World War II and CPS camp operations. In some recently compiled statistics, it is shown that the ratio of conscientious objectors (assigned to CPS camps or civilian work) to the total number of draft registrants has remained constant during both periods.

In World War II, out of approximately 22 million registrants, about 12,000 COs were in CPS camps. Under the 1948 and succeeding draft acts there are approximately 16 million registrants, of whom 8,500 are either in the civilian work program or are expected to enter it. Therefore, about .05% of all draft registrants are COs assigned to work of national importance.

The 12 states of Alabama, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Virginia now have a higher percentage of COs than during W. W. II. The 6 states of Missouri, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming have approximately the same percentage of COs. The remaining states have a lower percentage.

Of the slightly less than 10,000 conscientious objectors who are classified as such by Selective Service or are in or have completed their two years of civilian work, 50% come from the four states of Indiana, Kansas, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. 25% come from the states of California, Illinois, Iowa, Virginia, Texas, Michigan, and Oregon.

COs have been or are working in the following types of agencies according to the percentages shown: 3% in federal agencies; 43½% in state agencies; 12½% in city and county agencies; and 41% in nongovernmental agencies.

It is interesting to note that only 25 COs have deserted their jobs in the civilian work program, although a much greater number have refused to report for work. In W. W. II, at least 233 men left CPS camps and were subsequently sent to prison.

Illinois Ends CO Wage Discrimination

In April the Illinois Dept. of Public Welfare, to which many Illinois COs are assigned in the civilian work program, raised the salaries of the COs to that paid non-assignees in equivalent jobs. During the entire operation of the civilian work program until this change in policy, COs ordered to work for the Dept. of Public Welfare (primarily in state mental hospitals) have been paid less than other employees working in identical situations. This brings to an end the discrimination against COs in Illinois.

Since Illinois was one of the more outstanding cases of such discrimination, it is hoped that the several other states which still have this discriminatory policy will also abolish it. This new policy may ease some of the tension within Illinois and therefore a greater number of COs will continue in their jobs after release from the civilian work program.

Published by the National Service Board for Religious Objectors

Oper. Bul. 123 Changes Appeal Procedures

From the National Headquarters of Selective Service, Gen. Hershey's office, has come the intermediate orders which supplement the decisions of the Supreme Court in the 4 recent CO cases of *Witmer, Sicurella, Simmons,* and *Gonzales.* This order, Operations Bulletin No. 123, referred to in the April REPORTER, will remain in effect until Presidential Regulations are signed. The following portion of Operations Bulletin No. 123 are of extreme importance to all COs, especially to those who have or may have to appeal their classifications.

"2. As a result of these decisions it will be necessary to modify the procedure prescribed by section 1626.25 of the Selective Service Regulations pending changes to the regulations. Effective immediately in all cases involving any claim of conscientious objection in which an appeal is taken, whether the local board has sustained or denied the registrant's claim, the appeal board, before deciding the appeal, shall transmit the entire file to the appropriate United States Attorney for the purpose of securing an advisory recommendation from the Department of Justice.

"3. No appeal, involving a claim of conscientious objection which has been referred to the Dept. of Justice, shall be decided by any appeal board until the registrant has been furnished a copy of the recommendation of the Dept. of Justice and afforded an opportunity to file a reply in writing with the appeal board. In each such case which is now pending at an appeal board or is hereafter returned to an appeal board by the Dept. of Justice, the appeal board shall mail to the registrant a copy of the recommendation of the Dept. of Justice enclosed with a letter informing the registrant that, within thirty days after the date of such mailing, he may file a written reply with the appeal board concerning the recommendation of the Department. A copy of the letter shall be placed in the registrant's cover sheet. The recommendation of the Dept. of Justice is forwarded to the appeal board in an original and one copy. The copy should be mailed to the registrant. No such case shall be decided by an appeal board until the reply of the registrant has been received or the thirty-day period afforded the registrant to make such reply has expired, whichever occurs first. In making its decision, the appeal board shall consider any reply received from the registrant.

"4. Under the provisions of section 1625.3 (a) of the Selective Service Regulations, local boards are requested to reopen and consider anew the classification (1) of every registrant presently in Class I-A whose case involves a claim of conscientious objection which has been finally denied by the appeal board or the President, and (2) of every registrant presently in Class I-A-O who claimed conscientious objection to both combatant and noncombatant military service and whose claim has been finally denied in part by the appeal board or the President.

"5. It will not be necessary to reopen and consider anew the classification of any registrant whose entire claim of conscientious objection has been finally granted. This includes any case in which the claim was denied by the appeal board but thereafter was granted by the President."

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ABOUT CO VOLUNTEERS

Dr. H. F. Kraybill of the Medical Nutrition Laboratory, Denver, Colorado, testified on May 9 before the Joint Atomic Energy Committee of Congress about the experimental atomic irradiated food project in which 9 conscientious objectors have volunteered to be "guinea pigs." The COs, all Mennonites, are having this project accepted as part of their alternative service.

In the testimony, Dr. Kraybill described how these volunteers will have 35% of their food (on a calory basis) irradiated by atomic particles. The special diets will be given for periods about three weeks long, with "rest" periods in between experiments. Part of the group will eat identical, but unirradiated, foods for control and comparison purposes.

The COs will observe the palatability of the food, as well as its texture, flavor, color, and odor. Tests on how this food is utilized by the men will also be made.

Many newspapers throughout the country carried leading and front page articles about these experiments on May 9 and 10. Although many of these articles did not mention that the volunteers were COs, nevertheless the publicity was very favorably written.

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E. & R. Church Has 9 Approved Agencies

A survey of the work agency lists indicates that nine hospitals and institutions operated by the Evangelical and Reformed Church have been approved for the employment of conscientious objectors. These agencies are as follows:

Fairview Park Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio

Evangelical Deaconess Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio

Evangelical Deaconess Home and Hospital, Marshalltown, Iowa

Protestant Deaconess Hospital, Evansville, Indiana

Evangelical Deaconess Hospital, Detroit, Michigan

Evangelical Deaconess Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri

Nazareth Orphans Home, Rockwell, North Carolina

Evangelical Emmaus Home, Marthasville, Missouri

Caroline Mission, St. Louis, Missouri

NSBRO STAFF LOSES THREE MEMBERS

Two NSBRO staff members, Mr. Karl Yount and his wife, Betsy, have just left the NSBRO after completing over two years of service. Karl's service was in lieu of induction into the armed forces.

A third staff member, Paul Binder, will be leaving the NSBRO about the middle of June, when his alternative service is also completed.

Virginia COs Refuse Work; Are Convicted

Two Jehovah's Witnesses from Alexandria, Virginia, were convicted of refusing to report for civilian work on May 4, 1955. In this and other attacks on the legality of the civilian work program, the general claim is made that a forced labor draft in peace time is unconstitutional. A specific charge made about work assignments to state agencies is that such work does not contribute "to the maintenance of the *national* health, safety, or interest."

Judge Albert Bryan, in the jury trial, said the defendants' claims were not valid and allowed the jury to decide only whether or not the two men actually reported to work as ordered.

CO Sees Chance to "Prove Pacifism's Worth"

A Methodist conscientious objector, assigned to a state mental hospital, writes the following about his work:

"On August 10, 1955, I will have served my one year as a Psychiatric Technician Trainee. During this time I have had a very thorough training course comparable to a practical nurse course. This week (end of eighth month) I take a civil service exam for Psychiatric Technician which will become effective at the year's end, i.e., August 10, 1955. That is a permanent civil service position. The Trainee position is only temporary. The degree of responsibility will be increased at that time. Occasionally now we are given responsibilities equal to an RN (Registered Nurse).

"The majority of our work is psychiatric. Our patients are: 600 sex psychopaths, 300 criminally insane, 100 mentally ill, 50 sex psychopathic observation cases, and 50 psychopathic delinquents. This is a maximum security hospital. It is probably the most progressive program for rehabilitating patients in the U. S. A. It is at present the largest group of sex psychopaths in the world. Only one other hospital, in Denmark, is doing this progressive type therapy.

"We have released some 300 patients since the hospital opened in June 1954. They all have been committed to this hospital by a court, usually on a criminal offense. Thus far it has been a very enjoyable working condition. I was hired because I was a CO. We need help badly so pass the word. $200.00 per month. Good chance to prove the worth of pacifism."

Olsen Addresses Mennonites

Mr. Victor Olsen, who is in charge of the civilian work program at National Selective Service headquarters, addressed a Mennonite workshop which was considering ways in which they could better serve I-Ws. Meeting in Akron, Penna., from April 19-21, I-W Services personnel from the Mennonite Central Committee and the Mennonite Relief and Service Committee studied ways by which I-Ws can increase their witness of Christian love and peace.

Expressing a general satisfaction of the I-W program, Mr. Olsen said, however, that "too many fellows are going into the program to get it over with." He suggested that I-Ws should be more concerned about the importance of their work "contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety and interest."

At the end of 33 months of the I-W program, Mr. Olsen stated, over 5,500 COs have been assigned to more than 900 agencies in practically every state in the United States and in 41 foreign countries. He reported only 25 delinquents in the program, compared to more than 600 who were discharged from Civilian Public Service during World War II for some delinquency. This improvement, remarked Mr. Olsen, is attributed to the present draft law which limits conscientious objection to those basing their convictions on religious belief and training.

Erratum

The number of CO court cases during World War II which were won by the registrant was incorrectly quoted in the article entitled "Tietz Reviews CO Legal Gains" in the May, 1955, REPORTER. Actually 45 CO registrants won their court cases, instead of only 4, Mr. Tietz pointed out.

Defense Dept. Changes Loyalty Oath Policy

The Department of Defense, in April, abandoned its sweeping order requiring all Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) members to sign the controversial Loyalty Certificate (DD Form 98). Only those persons entering Advanced ROTC are now required to sign the "loyalty oath." Advanced ROTC, taken after two years of Basic ROTC, is not a required course as is Basic ROTC. (See Feb. 1955, REPORTER.)

Serves Sentence In Prison, Now I-W

Edwin E. White of Richmond, Ind., is now working in the Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, as a payroll clerk, after having served a two-year sentence for refusing to submit for induction into the Army. He was assigned to the hospital by Selective Service in Oct., 1954, just a little over two years after being committed to the federal prison in Ashland, Ky.

This assignment to the civilian work program of an ex-prisoner by Selective Service seems to further substantiate the trend of thought in Selective Service that if a CO goes to prison because of his principles, he must then be a sincere, religious conscientious objector. One stated reason why White, a Quaker, was not given a CO classification several years ago was that his convictions were not primarily religious.

SS Official Commends I-W Attendants

A Selective Service official recently stated his belief that conscientious objectors, because of their convictions and training in non-violence, are perhaps the best qualified personnel obtainable and have primarily the most sought-after personal attitudes necessary to be good attendants in mental hospitals. They are demonstrating right now, the official continued, the great amount of good that can be accomplished.

Many other favorable comments have been made about the work of COs in mental hospitals. Various people have suggested, however, that an evaluation of the CO's work should be made. This would provide hospital administrators with data on which to base the securing and training of future personnel, when I-Ws are no longer available. Furthermore, a greater appreciation of employees by hospital administrators might be expressed so as to give more strength and satisfaction to the people who have worked many months with the mentally ill patients.

Travel Regulations

A one-page memorandum on Selective Service regulations concerning registrants planning on traveling outside of the United States has been prepared by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Copies are available from the NSBRO or the AFSC, 20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Sen. Ervin Denounces Supreme Court

Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, in specifically referring to a Supreme Court decision on a conscientious objector case in 1946 and referring in general to several recent cases, stated that the Court has abused its power once again. In the case of *Girouard* v. *U. S.*, the Supreme Court overruled three previous decisions and an act of Congress in ruling that Girouard, an alien CO, was eligible for citizenship even though he would not bear arms in defense of this country, continued Sen. Ervin.

The Senator also said the course of the Supreme Court in recent years has been such as "to cause me to ponder the question whether fidelity to fact ought not compel us to remove from the portal of the building the words, 'Equal Justice Under the Law' and substitute 'Not justice under law, but justice according to the personal notions of the temporary occupants of this building.'"

Evangelical Church Of Germany Studies CO Policies

The Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany (Evangelisches Kirchem Im Deutchland, EKID) held in early March agreed to study the problem of legal recognition of conscientious objectors in Germany. The following summarizes their action.

"On the question of conscientious objection it was unanimously agreed that the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID), together with a newly formed committee, should formulate a policy which should then be laid before the Federal Government for use in the legal protection of conscientious objectors. The Synod further instructed the Council to use its strongest influence with the German Democratic Republic that it also should guarantee legal protection to conscientious objectors. With this resolution the Synod decided to follow the path of objective co-operation between the Evangelical Church in Germany and the legislature instead of issuing a new public pronouncement."

HAMMOND SERVES BAPTISTS

Rev. William M. Hammond, Jr., in CPS for about 3½ years, is now serving on the staff of the Council on Missionary Co-operation of the American Baptist Convention. He also serves as treasurer of the Baptist Pacifist Fellowship.

FOR AND ABOUT I-Ws

HOSPITALS PROVIDE VARIED WORK

The work in general hospitals is greatly varied, with openings for attendants to the kind herein described. "I am the main cashier and also work on the payroll," and "My present position is as a technical assistant in the Department of Pathology and Oncology."

Another I-W describes the work he and two other I-Ws do as operating room assistants in a general hospital near New York City. "I stand by for about five operations a day, move the patients to and from the operating room, go to the blood bank when necessary, entertain children before a tonsil operation, and assist in bone setting, in which I am most interested. Another I-W is in eye surgery and the third is in abdominal surgery. These fellows are invaluable to the surgeons. The doctor in eye surgery is taking his two week vacation at the same time as his I-W assistant. He said he would not perform an eye operation without this one assistant. The doctor in bone surgery feels the same about my work. These surgeons are men of few words, in fact they only grunt and you must know what each grunt means. A whole new world has opened up to me and I like it. . . . There is no ill will toward the COs."

A third I-W also describes his work in a general hospital. "I work in the Post-Operative room where patients are brought while still under anesthesia. I help to take blood pressure and pulse, administer oxygen when needed, and see that the patient throws up anything which bothers him. We try to keep patients from going into shock."

The Hindman Settlement School, Hindman, Ky., has recently been approved by Selective Service for the employment of COs in the civilian work program.

I-W SERVES IN SETTLEMENT HOUSE

One conscientious objector who wanted to get into a job which would use his abilities to the fullest, was assigned by Selective Service to a neighborhood settlement house. He writes the following about his work:

"The program I am in charge of is the leading of active games in the gym. The children range from 6 to 12 years of age. The center is also paying my tuition to a school of social work. Sometime in the fall I will do field work with the parents and try to get them interested in the program offered by the center for themselves and their children. Of course this entails a staff position at a low salary but it is far more to my liking than other possible positions."

INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN USE I-Ws

Conscientious objectors are still being assigned to state institutions for children. One, at a school for feeble minded, reports that he is an attendant in one of the cottages where the children reside. "The work consists of caring for 60 boys, ages between 10 and 25 years. We are responsible to see that certain ones get to school at the proper time, that others get to gym, work, etc. During the day there are always 15 to 20 boys still in the cottage and we must see that they are happily engaged in puzzles, books, and listening to the radio, record player, or TV. Keeping discipline and order is our main problem."

A second I-W reports the following: "My work consists mostly of farm work, but any kind of job can be expected as long as you are capable of it. The farm consists of approximately 1500 acres, mostly in truck crops, and with a dairy and hog farm."

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